

Apr. 10 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

The White House,
April 10, 1991.

*Note: H.R. 1282, approved April 10, was
assigned Public Law No. 102-28.*

Nomination of John E. Bennett To Be United States Ambassador to Equatorial Guinea

April 10, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate John E. Bennett, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. He would succeed Chester E. Norris, Jr.

Since 1987 Mr. Bennett has served as consul general at the U.S. consulate in Monterrey, Mexico. Prior to this Mr. Bennett studied at the National Defense University, 1986-1987. In addition, he has served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kampala, Uganda, 1983-1986; consul general at the U.S. Embassy

in Lagos, Nigeria, 1979-1983; and consular officer at the U.S. consulate in Guadalajara, Mexico, 1978-1979. Mr. Bennett served as a political analyst at the Department of State, 1976-1977; a consular officer at the U.S. consulate in Bremen, Germany, 1973-1976; and a consular officer at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spain, 1972-1973. He joined the Foreign Service in 1971.

Mr. Bennett graduated from Harvard University (B.A., 1970). Mr. Bennett was born June 4, 1941, in Atlan, British Columbia, Canada. He served in the U.S. Army, 1965-1969. Mr. Bennett is married, has two children, and resides in Belfair, WA.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Jacques Delors of the European Community Commission and President Jacques Santer of the European Council of Ministers

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President Bush. You're not going to need these because this is a photo opportunity. *[Laughter]*

Q. Mr. President, do you support a safe haven for the Kurdish refugees?

Q. Haven't you, in effect, sir, created an enclave there by telling Iraq you will shoot down any planes that threaten the refugees?

President Bush. Photo opportunity.

I think our distinguished guests are going to have a press conference later on. I'll have a little something to say on this subject in a bit, too. But the main thing we want to do is welcome these European leaders here. The United States values its relationship with the EC—and of course, on a bilateral basis we have a wonderful relationship with Prime Minister Santer and his country,

and the same for Jacques Delors when he's wearing a French hat, which is very seldom these days. We've got a great, cooperative relationship with the EC and with individual countries in Europe, and that's what this meeting is about, to put the emphasis on the EC.

Iraqi Refugees

Q. Well, you are going to discuss the Kurdish refugees?

President Bush. Absolutely. We'll be discussing that and a wide array of other questions. And I'm very pleased with the enormous cooperative refugee program now underway. It is tremendous. The suffering there is enormous. And the United States is